

ACCENT: Theatre! Makes All-Out Bid for Support

An "all-or-nothing" bid for community support will be made by ACCENT: Theatre! when it opens its first full season of plays with "The Rose Tattoo" at the Civic Auditorium Sept. 30.

In addition to attempting to fill the house, the local civic theatre will run the three-act folk comedy for six nights, including Oct. 1, 7, 8, 13, and 14.

"If Torrance wants a community theater we won't have trouble drawing crowds," said Mrs. Beverly Dyer, 2840 Orondo, director of public relations for ACCENT. "But if ticket sales are poor we'll realize that our efforts to establish a permanent, non-profit community theater here are in vain."

She said that attendance at

"Night of January 16th" and "The Fourposter" last spring was good, especially for such a new organization. However, she feels the only way a really fine theater can be developed is through whole-hearted community support.

"Plays without an audience are like a one-sided telephone conversation. Nothing gets across," she added.

In explaining the "all-or-nothing" proposition, Mrs. Dyer said that no expense will be spared in creating the colorful interior exterior settings for the weird, poignant comedy by Tennessee Williams, nor will the group go light on costumes, hospitality, or advertising.

"We have proved in the past that we are doing the best work

in the area on costumes and sets, we spend more money promoting our shows, and our coffee is even better than that at Pasadena Playhouse, we are told."

The cast for the forthcoming production is a large and experienced one, too, she said. Noralee Benedict, who played Serafina delle Rose, volatile Sicilian seamstress for whom love is more important than death.

in Kansas City, Mo., now alternates in that starring role with Nadine Nickel, Torrance voice teacher.

Miss Benedict, who doubles as director of the show, was last seen in the Magic Circle Theatre's production of "Twenty Seven Wagons Full of Cotton" and "A Phoenix Too Frequent" this summer. Mrs. Nickel has appeared in many roles for the South Bay Civic Light

Opera Assn. and has worked with the Palos Verdes Players. She will perform the nights of Oct. 7 and 8.

Paul Shelley, who directed "Tattoo" in Kansas City for ACCENT: Theatre! there, will recreate his role of Alvaro Mangiacavallo, the made a truckdriver.

Mrs. Paul Harestad is assistant director, while Mrs. H. F. Heinlein will act as stage manager.

In charge of advance ticket sales is Mrs. Edward Cantie, FA 8-7625.

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